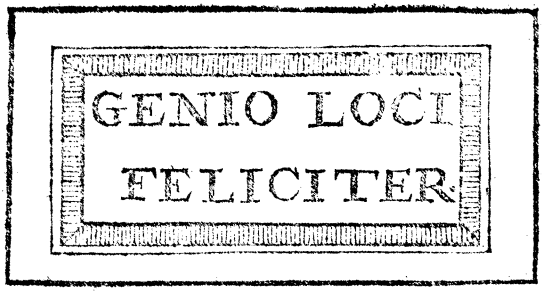
VIII.. *A Letter from Mr* Ralph Thoresby, *F. R. S. concerning a* Roman *Inscription lately found at* York, &c.

THE *Roman* Monument lately discovered at *York* (which you desire an account of) was found in digging a Cellar in *Coning-street*, not far from the *Roman* Wall and Multangular Tower, that Dr *Lister* has given so curious and particular a Description of. This Monument, Dedicated to the *Genius*, or Tutelar Deity of the Place, is not of that course Rag, that the generality of the *Roman* Monuments are, but of the finer Gritt, like the Altar at the Lord *Fairfax*'s House in *York*: 'Tis 21 inches long, and 11 broad, and is inscribed GENIO LOCI FELICITER. There was a larger Stone found with it, but without any Inscription; nor is there upon either of them the representation of a Serpent, or a young Visage, by both which the Ancients sometimes described these *Dij Topici*; if the Name had been added, it would have gratified the Curiosity of the *Neoterie* Antiquaries; but they must yet acquiesce (for ought I know) in the old DVI, who is said to be the *Tutelar Deity* of the *City* of the *Brigantes*; from which *Diw*, as the *Britains* call'd him, *Dewsbury*, or *Duisburg* in this Neighbourhood, seems to have receiv'd its name; a place now chiefly noted for a sort of course Cloath there made, and thence called *Duberians*. The Monument is of this form.

Phil. Trans. No 149.

Camdens Brit. N. E. p. 708.

The



The Author of this *Votive* Monument ſeems to have had the ſame Superſtitious Veneration for the *Genius* of *York*, as thoſe at *Rome* had for theirs, whoſe Name they were prohibited to utter, or enquire after; hence it is upon their Coins the Name of this Deity is never expreſſed, but in a more general manner by *Genius P. R.* or *Pop. Rom.* Such a one I have of *Conſtantius*, minted at *London*, as appears by the Exurg L O N. under the Effigies of that Deity, with a *Patera* in the Right Hand, and *Cornucopia* in the Left, inſcribed GENIO POPULI ROMANI. I rather inſtance in that of this Emperor (the Father of *Conſtantine* the *Great*) becauſe he made *York* his Imperial Seat, and was here Deifyed; the Medal of whoſe *Apotheoſis* I alſo have, minted at the ſame place and inſcribed MEMORIA FELIX. which I mention (tho nothing relating to the Genius) becauſe of the expreſſion of a noted Antiquary, "That *Rome* in the height of its "greatneſs, had not a more glorious and gallant ſhow "to exhibit, than what this poor piece of Copper would "expreſs. As the *Genius* of the *City of Rome* was expreſſed by G. P. R. ſo that of the *Commonwealth*, in a moſt ſordid Flattery, by that of the *Emperor*, who they pretended to be their *Happy Genius*. I have one even of *Nero*, and not only after his *Quinquennium*, but the year

Burton's Com. upon Antonin. p. 78.

year after he had laid moſt of the City in Aſhes, yet by the expreſs order of the Senate, inſcribed GENIO AUGUSTI. S. C. Some of the Fathers have therefore juſtly reproach'd the *Romans*, for paying a greater Veneration to the *Genii* of their Emperors, than to *Jupiter* their ſupream God. This Cuſtom of Deifying the *Genii*, and that of aſſigning *Gods* for defence of particular Cities, is very ancient, as appears by what the Prophet *Jeremiah* ſaith of revolting *Judah*, *According to the number of thy Cities are thy Gods*; after the manner of the Heathen, who, according to *Varro*, had above * thirty thouſand; and yet notwithſtanding this prodigious number, it is evident from their Medals, that ſeveral Cities were ſometimes aſſigned to the ſame Tutelar Deity; thus the *Greeks* (from whom the *Romans* receiv'd this and ſeveral other of their Superſtitions) committed both *Magneſia* and *Smyrna* to the protection of *Cybele*. Medals of the former are more common, of the latter more rare. His Excellency Baron *Spanheim* has writ a moſt Learned Diſcourſe upon them, which makes me more to value one in my poor *Muſæum*, which has the Effigies of that *Mother of the Gods* with her Towered Head, and CMYPNA; upon the Reverſe is a Lyon Paſſant with CMYPNAIΩN. I have alſo a large curious Medal of *Julius Philippus*, that would tempt us to believe that *Antioch* alſo was devoted to the ſame *Cybele*, for it has round her Head with the Turreted Crown ANTIOKEΩN MHTPOKOΛΩN. with Δ (or rather Λ) E and S C on each ſide the Head. I muſt own my ſelf ſomewhat at a loſs about the latter word, except the *Greek* and *Roman* Tongues began then to admit of a ſort of Mongril Mixture, ſo that from MHTEP and *Colonus*, might proceed MHTPOKOΛΩNΩN, and ſo the *Antiochians* have the Title of the Men of the Mother-Colony,

Jer. 2. 28. *and* 11. 13.

* *Pool's Synopſis Critic. in loc.*

Colony, the Λ Ε which are *Greek*, the S C in *Latin* Characters, the former ſignifying *Luſtrum Quintum*, the other *Senatus Conſulto*, ſeem to countenance this Conjecture, the *Roman* S being different from that in ΦΙΛΙΠΠΟC and C E Bασ'Θ upon the ſame Coin.

This Curioſity of the City of *Antioch* is not ſo valuable as it was the Metropolis of all *Syria*, and highly applauded by *Ammianus Marcellinus* (who lived within a a hundred years of this time, as it is becauſe here the name of *Chriſtians* was firſt taken up, and that St *Paul* both preached and kept a Synod here, as *Euſebius* tells us, and ſo another I have of *Antoninus Pius*, inſcribed B E P O I A I Ω N, which is more valuable in my Fancy for that paſſage *Acts* XVII. 2. than if it could be certainly aſcribed to the nobleſt of the four Cities that bore the ſame Name.

IX. Joh.